POL 14 VIETS

Department of State

TELEGRAM

(1289)

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Saigon 7345 10-1-67

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ACTION EA 19

INFO IO 21, AID 30, SAL 01, SAH 03, NSA 02, GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12,
H 02, NSC 10, L 03, INR 07, P 04, CIA 04, DOD 01, SP 02, SS 35, RSR 01,
/162 W

R 011020Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SSZSTATE WASHDC 7949
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4407
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2653
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 1044

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Irma Izquierdo DATE 1/20/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS IN THE DELTA

1. THERE ARE ENCOURAGING SIGNS THAT THE LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS IN IV CORPS ARE BEING TAKEN SERIOUSLY AND THAT COMPETITION WILL BE KEEN. IN CONTRAST TO ATTITUDE OF CYNICAL SKEPTICISM FREQUENTLY VOICED PRIOR TO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTION LAST YEAR, MANY PEOPLE SEEM TO FEEL THAT LOWER HOUSE WILL EXERT CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE AND THAT A SEAT IS THEREFORE A MEANINGFUL

PRIZE. CANDIDATES ALSO APPEAR TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE SOPHISTICATED IN THEIR ASSESSMENTS OF THE POLITICAL

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SITUATION THAN LAST YEAR. ALTHOUGH A GOOD DEAL OF PERSONAL BACK (#) CAN STILL BE HEARD, IT IS GENERALLY

CONCEDED (EVEN BY THEIR OPPONENTS) THAT MANY CANDIDATES ARE PEOPLE OF CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE AND ABILITY.

2. CANDIDATES INCLUDE ALL RELIGIONS AND ETHNIC GROUPS IN THE DELTA. MANY HAVE HELD JOBS OF SUBSTANTIAL RESPONSIBILITY, INCLUDING THE FORMER PROVINCE CHIEFS OR DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEFS OF KIEN PHONG, PHONG DINH, KIEN GIANG, KIEN HOA, AND VINH BINH. NEW POLITICAL ALLIANCES--OR AT LEAST ASSOCIATIONS-- MAY BE IN THE MAKING AS WELL: IN KIEN (#)

THE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR THE NEWLY ELECTED VILLAGE AND HAMLET OFFICIALS.

ABOUT THE SHORT PERIOD OF TIME ALLOTTED FOR OFFICIAL CAMPAIGNING (OCTOBER 6-21). A NUMBER HAVE IN FACT BEEN POLITICKING UNOFFICIALLY FOR SOME

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 7345 C O N F I D E MBLXI A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TIME. THERE ARE SIGNS GVN (#)
TIME: THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PHONG DINH LOCAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, FOR EXAMPLE, IS SET FOR OCTOBER 1, THE VERY DAY OF SECOND AND FINAL POSTING OF CANDIDATES' NAMES. LOCAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES MUST DETERMINE HOW CAMPAIGN IS TO BE

UNCLASSIFIED

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CONDUCTED INCLUDING SUCH MATTERS AS SIZE AND NUMBER OF LEAFLETS, BANNERS, AND OTHER PARTISAN CAMPAIGN MATERIAL, ALL OF WHICH MUST BE PRODUCED LOCALLY. THERE IS SOME CONCERN THAT MATERIALS IN SOME CASES WILL NOT BE READY IN TIME.

4. IT IS TOO EARLY TO ASSESS THE DEGREE TO WHICH GVN OFFICIALS WILL BE MOTIVATED TO ENSURE A LARGE VOTER TURNOUT. IT WOULD SEEM NATURAL IN THIS FIFTH ELECTION IN 13 MONTHS TO SEE SOME LESSENING OF OFFICIAL ZEAL. HOWEVER, FACT THAT CAMPAIGNS ARE CENTERED IN THE PROVINCE AND THAT MANY PROMINENT LOCAL PERSONALITIES ARE COMPETING SHOULD GENERATE SUBSTANTIAL LOCAL ENTHUSIASM IN MOST PROVINCES.

BUNKER

OMISSION. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.3. MANY CANDIDATES ARE COMPLAINING

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ACTION EA 19

INFO IO 21, AID 30, AL 01, SAH 03, NSA 02, GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12,
H 02, NSC 10, L 03, INR 07, P 04, CIA 04, DOD 01, SP 02, SS 35, RSR 01,
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS IN THE DELTA

1. THERE ARE ENCOURAGING SIGNS THAT THE LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS IN IV CORPS ARE BEING TAKEN SERIOUSLY AND THAT COMPETITION WILL BE KEEN. IN CONTRAST TO ATTITUDE OF CYNICAL SKEPTICISM FREQUENTLY VOICED PRIOR TO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTION LAST YEAR, MANY PEOPLE SEEM TO FEEL THAT LOWER HOUSE WILL EXERT CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE AND THAT A SEAT IS THEREFORE A MEANINGFUL

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PRIZE. CANDIDAMES ALSO APPEAR TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE SOPHISTICATED IN THEIR ASSESSMENTS OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION THAN LAST YEAR. ALTHOUGH A GOOD DEAL OF PERSONAL BACK-BOTING CAN STILLBE HEARD, IT IS GENERALLY CONCEDED (EVEN BY THEIR OPPONENTS) THAT MANY CANDIDATES ARE PEOPLE OF CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE AND ABILITY.

2. CANDIDATES INCLUDE ALL RELIGIONS AND ETHNIC GROUPS IN THE DELTA. MANY HAVE HELD JOBS OF SUBSTANTIAL RESPONSIBILITY, INCLUDING THE FORMER PROVINCE CHIEFS OR DEPUTY PROVINCAC CHIEFS OF KIEN PHONG, PHONG DINH, KIEN GIANG, KIEN HOA, AND VINH BINH. NEW POLITICAL ALLIANCES--OR AT LEAST ASSOCIATIONS-- MAY BE IN THE MAKING AS WELL: IN KIEN GIANGAGQ FOR EXAMPLE, TWO CANDIDATES APPEAR TO BE BANKING ON SUPPORT OF NEWLY ELECTED VILLAGE AND HAMLET OFFICIALS. ONE IS A RECENTLY ELECTED VILLAGE CHIEF AND THE OTHER HAS BEEN IN CHARGE OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR THE NKLY ELECTED VILLAGE AND HAMLET OFFICIALS.

3. MANY CANDIDATES ARE COMPLAINING ABOUT THE SHORT PERIOD OF TIME ALLOTTED FOR OFFIIAL CAMPAIGNING (OCTOBER 6-21). A NUMBER HAVE IN FACT BEEN POLITICKING UNOFFICIALL FOR SOME

R P 3 RUMJIR 7345 C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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